

Application No. 10/541,072
Amendment dated December 10, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2007

Docket No.: 3888-0110PLUS1

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet having an iridescent appearance, ~~characterized in that it comprises, comprising;~~

a substrate made of a material based on cellulose fibers or plastic material; and

a coating layer at the surface of said substrate, a layer formed from iridescent pigments as a mixture with hollow plastic microspheres.
2. (Original) The sheet as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the iridescent pigments are of the titanium oxide-coated mica type.
3. (Original) The sheet as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the hollow plastic microspheres are based on styrene-acrylic polymer.
4. (Currently Amended) The sheet as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the mean diameter of the microspheres is between 0.5 μm and 1.0 μm and ~~is preferably equal to approximately 0.6 μm .~~
5. (Previously Presented) The sheet as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is calendered and its gloss is greater than or equal to 65, as measured with a BYK-Gardner glossmeter oriented at 75° with respect to the normal.

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6. (Currently Amended) The sheet as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is transparent or translucent ~~and defines in particular a natural tracing paper.~~

7. (Withdrawn) A process for manufacturing a sheet having an iridescent appearance, characterized in that:

- a substrate is coated, using a coating device, with a layer composed of a mixture of iridescent pigments and of an aqueous dispersion of hollow plastic microspheres,
- the coating is dried,
- the sheet thus obtained is calendered.

8. (Withdrawn) The manufacturing process as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that said substrate is a material based on cellulose fibers.

9. (Withdrawn) The manufacturing process as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that said substrate is a plastic.

10. (Withdrawn) The manufacturing process as claimed in one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that the coating device is a metal blade coater.

11. (Withdrawn) The manufacturing process as claimed in one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that the coating device is a curtain coater.

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12. (Withdrawn) The manufacturing process as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that a steel calender is used, the sheet being calendered several times, in particular between 3 and 5 times, under a pressure of 80 N/m^2 .

13. (Withdrawn) The manufacturing process as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that a "cotton" calender is used.

14. (Withdrawn) The manufacturing process as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the calendering parameters are defined so that the transparency of the layer after calendering is at least twice as high as that of the coating layer before calendering, the transparency being defined by the formula:

Transparency = $100 - \text{Opacity}$, the opacity being evaluated according to standard NF-Q 03 006.

15. (Withdrawn) The manufacturing process as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the calendering parameters are defined so that the gloss of the sheet after calendering, measured using a BYK-Gardner glossmeter oriented at 75° with respect to the normal, is at least twice as high as that of the sheet before calendering.

16. (New) The sheet as claimed in claim 4, wherein the mean diameter of the microspheres is equal to approximately $0.6 \mu\text{m}$

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17. (New) A sheet as claimed in claim 6, wherein the sheet is a natural tracing paper.

18. (New) The sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating layer is a calendered layer.

19. (New) The sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plastic material is plastic film.